

Region 2 Fire Danger Outlook

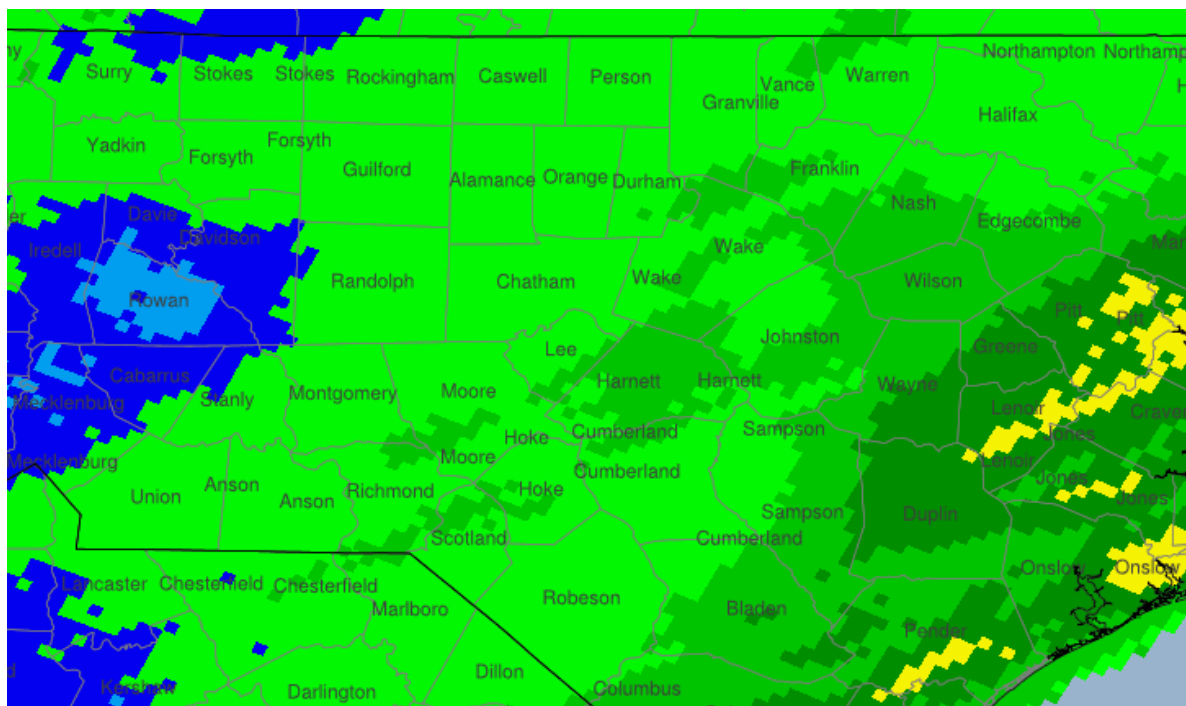
4/13/18

Cabe Speary, Fire Environment Forester, 252-325-3089

Weather Outlook

- A warm southwest flow will persist over the area, resulting in much above normal temperatures into the weekend. A strong cold front will cross the region late Sunday, bringing showers and thunderstorms to the area, some of which may be severe. Dry, cooler, and breezy conditions will follow for Monday into Tuesday, with a gradual warm up through the remainder of the period. For April 20th-26th, there is 33-50% chance of **above** normal precipitation.
- Minimum RH will generally be in the mid 30s today, climbing to the mid-40s-50% for Saturday, and on up to the 60s-70s for Sunday. For the remainder of the period, expect 30-40% range.
- Winds will generally be out of the SW 5-12 MPH today and tomorrow, with gusts to 20. For Sunday, they will be switching to the S at 5-15 MPH. For the remainder of the period they will be 5-15 MPH. Mixing heights of 4,500-5,500 feet for today, with transport winds SW at 20-25 MPH. For Saturday, mixing heights of 5,000-6,500 can be expected with transport winds SW at 25-30 MPH.
- High temperatures will generally be in the mid 70s-low 80s through Sunday. After the front passes, they will be in the 60s to near 70 for Monday and Tuesday, before climbing into the 70s for the remainder of the period. Lows will be in the 50s to 60 tonight and Saturday night, with upper 30s-40s for Sunday through Tuesday, before climbing back to the 50s for Wednesday. For April 20th-26th, there is a 40-50% chance of **below** normal temperatures.

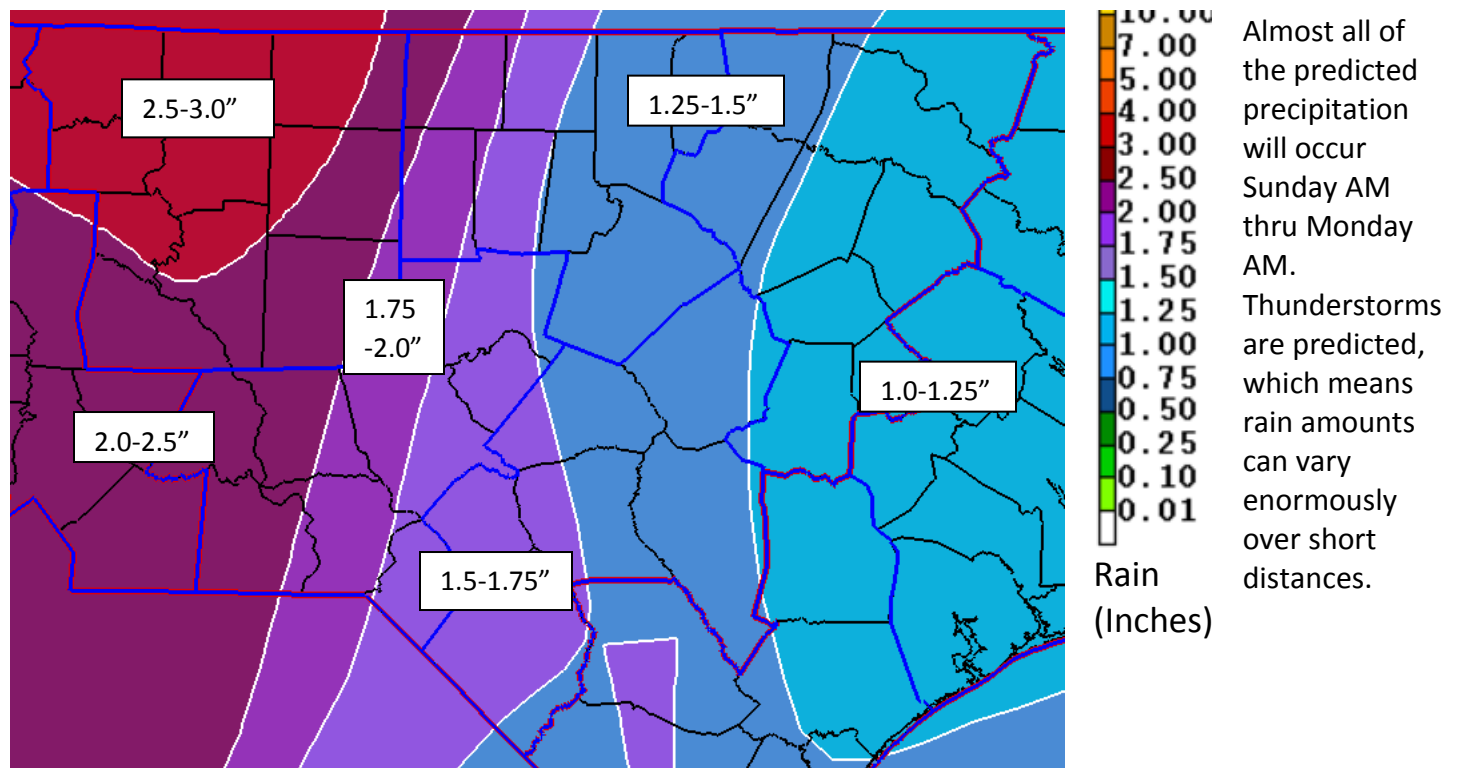
Precipitation Estimates for April 7th, 0800 to April 13th, 0800



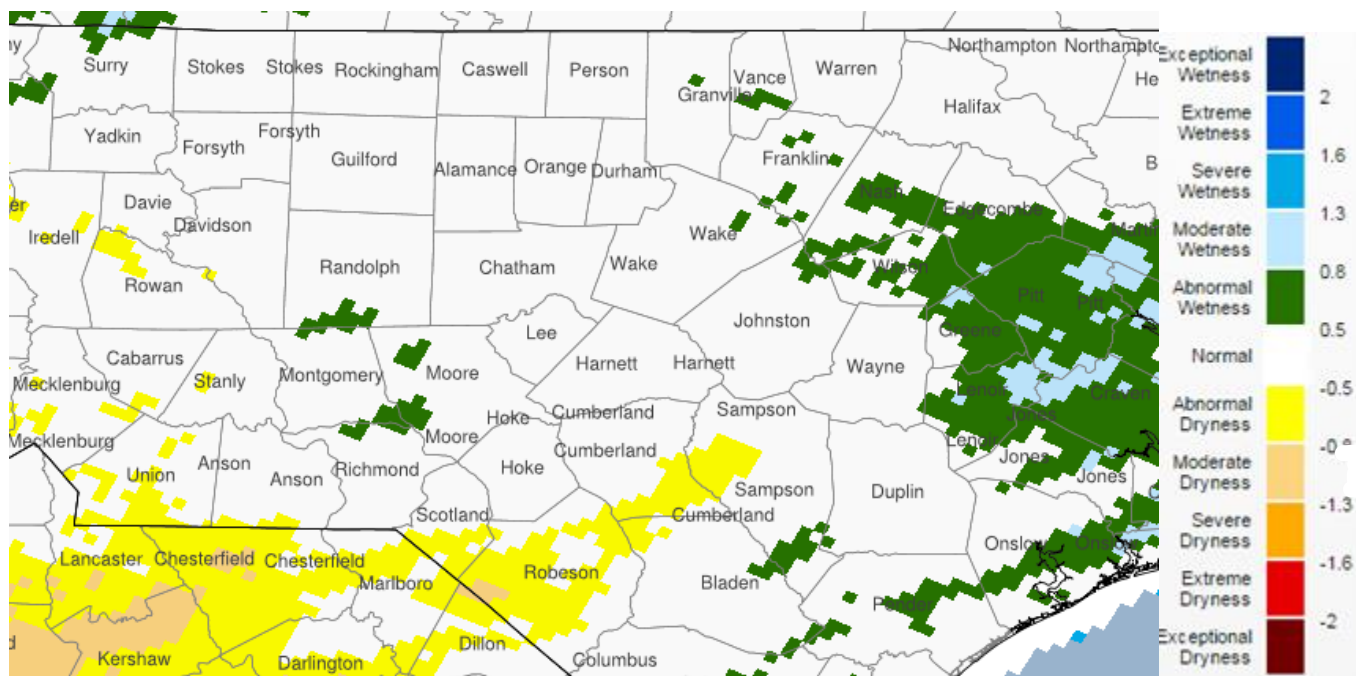
Most of the region got at least ½ inch this past week. Considerably less than what was predicted.

3.0
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.25
0.10
0.01
Rain (Inches)

Forecast Precipitation, April 15, 0800-April 16, 0800

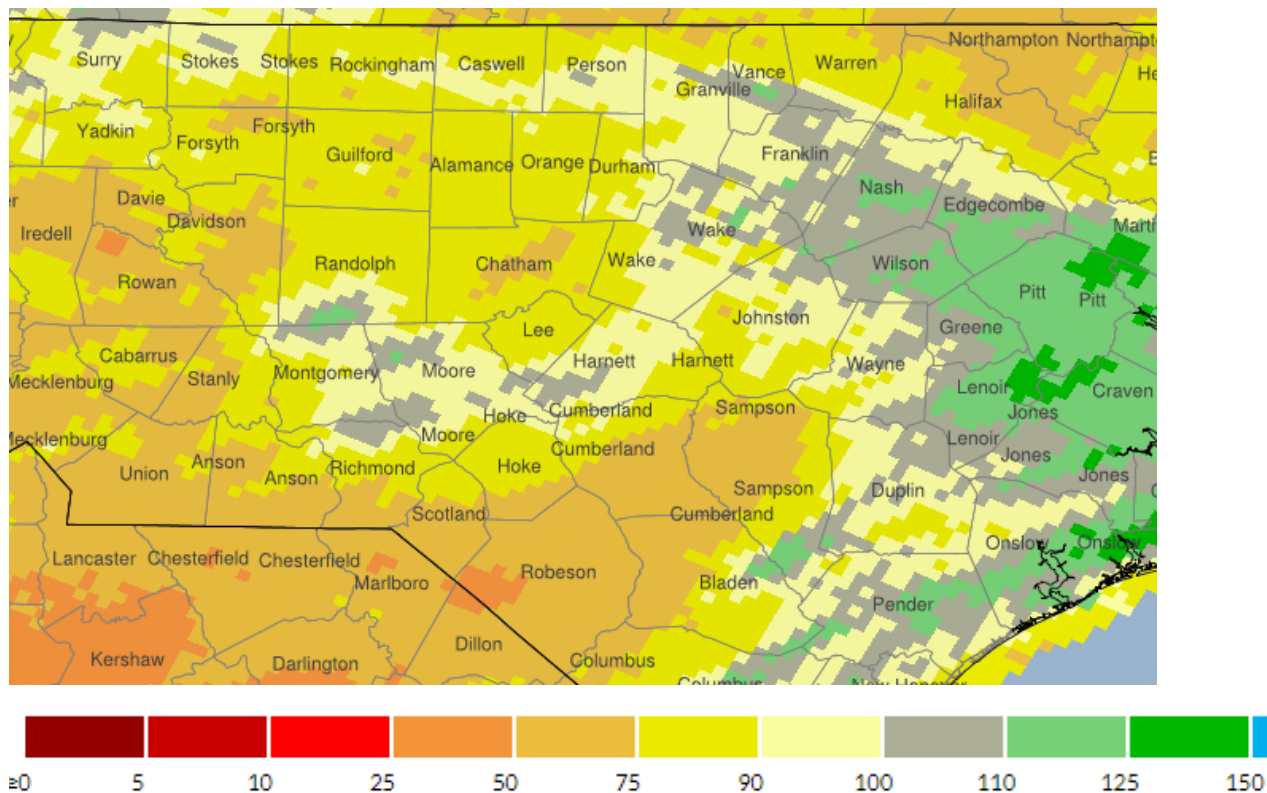


30 Day Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI)

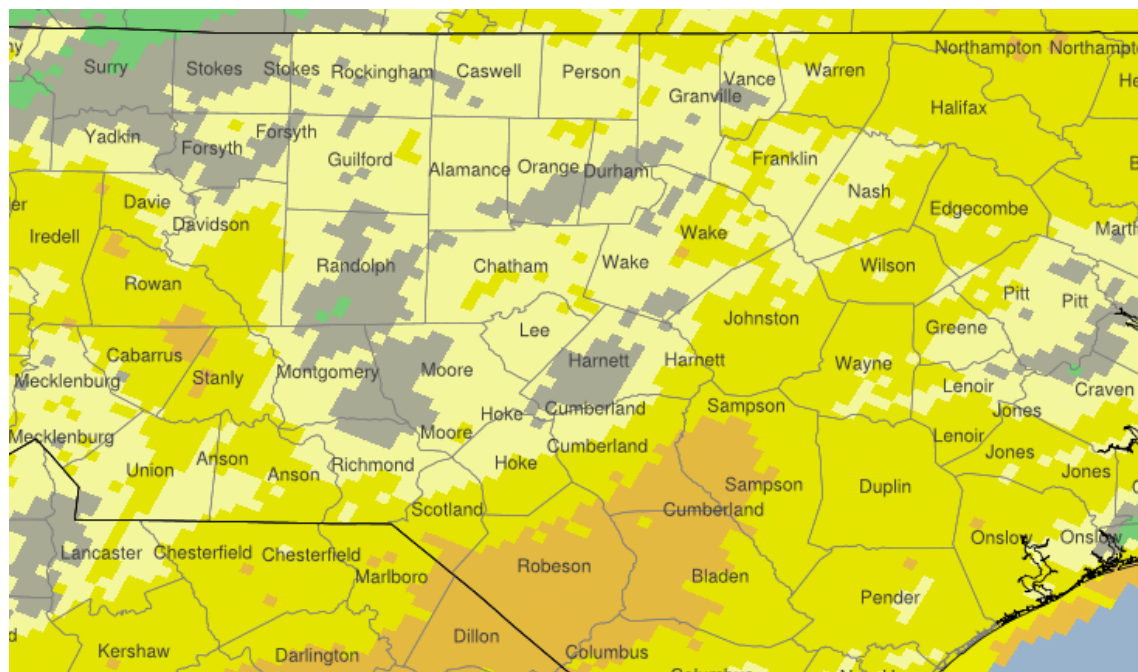


Eastern portions of the region have improved somewhat, but western portions have dried out some. However, most of the region is about normal for this time of year.

30 Day Percent of Normal Precipitation

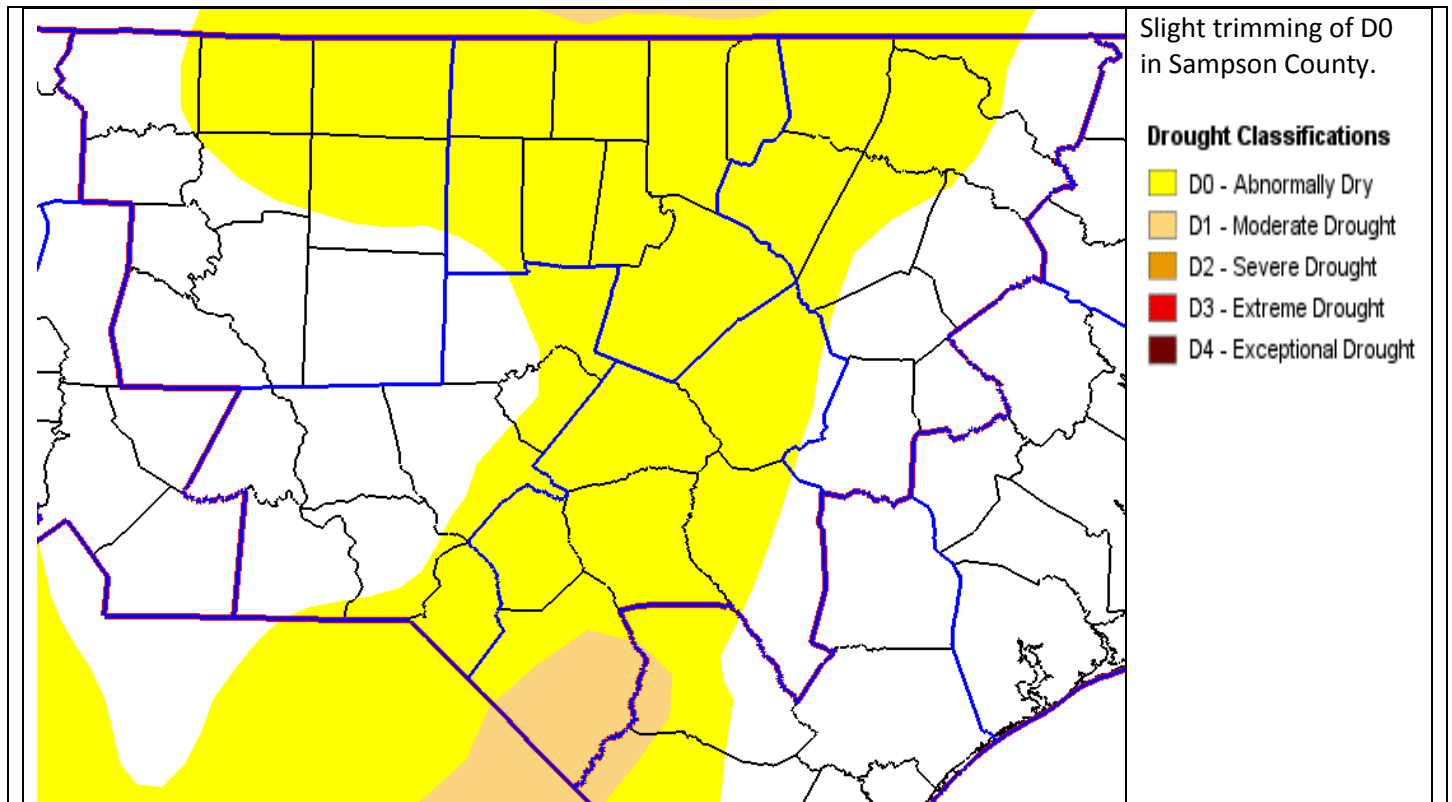


90 Day Percent of Normal Precipitation

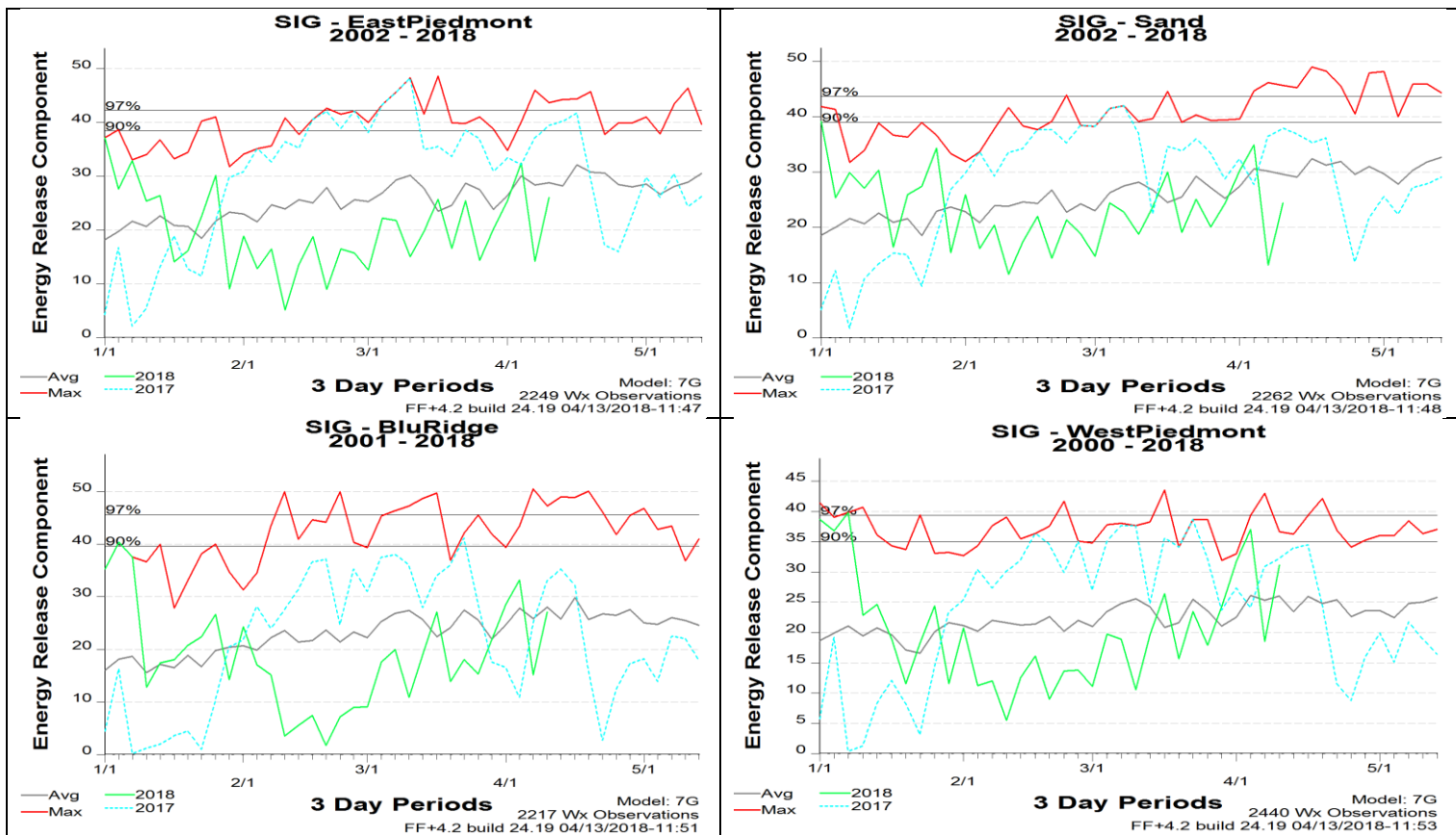


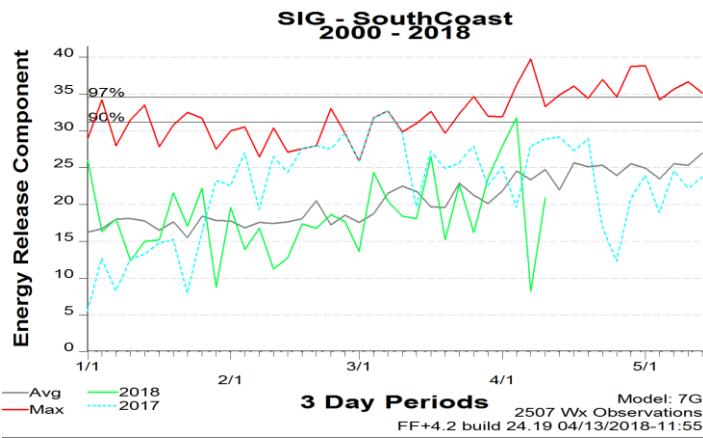
Most of the region is at 50% of normal or better. At this time scale, there is no real concern. Even at the 90 day, there is little concern at this point. However, if deficits continue to mount through spring and early summer, larger fuel classes will become more available to burn more intensely.

Drought Map, as of April 10th, 2018



ERC Trends

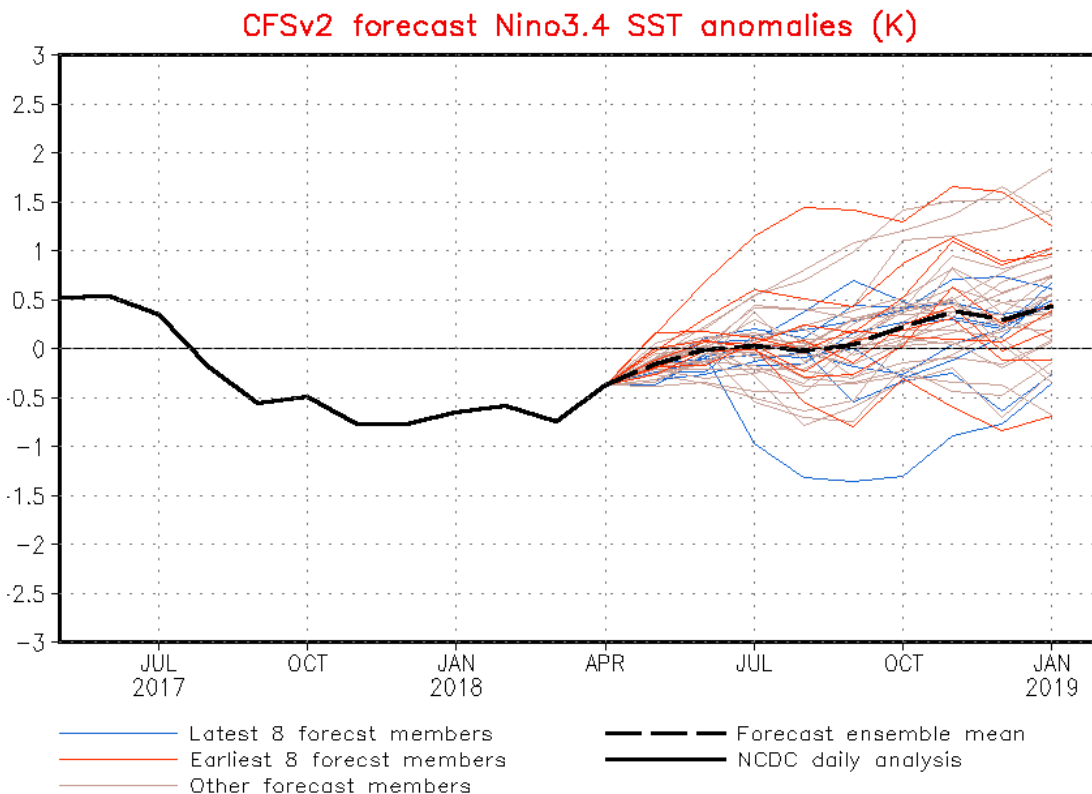




ERC dropped quickly after the last rain period. It has moved back to slightly below to near normal for all FDRAs except slightly above normal for the West Piedmont. They may increase some today and tomorrow, but be back down for Sunday through Monday, then inching back up later next week.

Little to no risk of significant fire potential through the period. DENSICA is Moderate for today and tomorrow, dropping to Low for the remainder of the period.

ENSO Trends



According to this graph, the move to ENSO neutral (less than $.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ anomaly in sea surface temperature at zone 3.4) has already occurred. However, this condition must remain in place for 3 months before neutral conditions will be declared. At least a few models are predicting a move back to marginal La Nina conditions from summer to early fall.